

Night 14

Highlights from Suratul Kahf: Kahf means the Cave. This is a makki surah revealed before the first migration to Habashah or Abyssinia, currently Ethiopia, when the kuffar's treatment of Muslims was becoming rougher by the day. . *This surah was revealed in response to the three questions that the mushrekeen of Makkah had asked the Prophet at the advice of Jews and Christians. Since these matters were not known to the Arabs, by asking these questions the People of the Book wanted to test whether Muhammad was indeed a messenger of God. The three questions: Who were the People of the Cave? What is the reality of the story of Khidr? And Who was Dhul Qarnain and what is his story? *Allah did protect the Young People of the Cave who fled from the Kuffar and left their homes refusing to compromise their deen. He caused them to sleep for a long time (309 years) and cause them to wake up making a miracle out of them. In this surah there is also a message for Muslims that if the going gets difficult and you can't practice your deen, then make hijrah to a place where you can. Story of Khidr and Dhul Qarnain also takes the bulk of the last part of the Surah.

Highlights from Surat Mariam: This surah is truly a gift to the persecuted Muslims of Makkah, some of whom were advised by the Prophet to migrate to Habashah to escape the mental and physical torture. The surah is named after **Mariam** the mother of Prophet Isa. She was among the most righteous. This surah was a true gift for the first muhajereen of Islam and a great means of da'wah to People of the Book at all times. **Background:** The Prophet had asked persecuted Muslims to migrate to Habashah because its king An-Najaashi was a just ruler. When the Quraish found out about the migration, they were furious. They sent some envoys to bring the muhajereen back. They tried to bribe the palace officials and gave lots of gifts to Najaashi and asked that he return the Muslims. Najaashi said he could not until he talked to the refugees. He asked the Muslims about the new deen they had adopted. Jaa'far spoke on behalf of the muhajereen. He gave a little background and recited the portion of Surat Mariam about Yahya and Eisaa. Hearing, Najaashi began to weep and said what you have recited and what Prophet Jesus brought have come from the same source. He told the representatives of the Quraish he was not going to hand the Muslims over to them. The kuffaar were not giving up that easily, so they told Najaashi that those Muslims said something strange about Jesus. They knew that Christians generally believed that Prophet Jesus was the son of God. If Muslims said that Jesus was not son of God to a Christian king that would make Najaashi very upset. Najaashi asked them what they thought of Jesus. Jaa'far and his companions realized it was a delicate matter but they decided to tell Najaashi what the Qur'an said about Prophet Isa. Jaa'far told Najaashi that Isa, son of Mariam, was only a messenger of Allaah and a word or kalimah that was **bestowed on** Mariam. Hearing this Najaashi picked up a straw and said that what Jaa'far had stated, Jesus was no more than that even equal to that straw. He sent the Quraishi envoy back, empty handed. **Lesson:** *Muslims really showed the strength of character and the training of Rasulullaah telling the truth in adversity. *The surah also talks about Prophet Ibrahim and his struggle against falsehood and sacrifices in the service of Allaah. There is indeed a message in this for Muslims that like Prophet Ibrahim, one day soon you will also be successful and honored. *The surah then goes on to talk about other prophets, thus reminding the kuffaar that what Prophet Muhammad had brought was nothing new but a continuation of Allaah's message to humanity throughout history, and that this is the Final and preserved message of Allaah to guide humans who had corrupted earlier revelations.

Highlights from Surat Ta-ha: This surah provides further support to the believers and repeats the promise of humiliation and torment for those who reject the message of Islam. The Prophet is told that this Qur'an is a Book of Guidance to those who accept it, and that he should not be stressed out because of the enemies' rejection of his message. *The surah mentions the story of Musa when he confronted the big tyrant of his time (Pharaoh). *The surah hints that just as Musa was victorious over falsehood, so will Muhammad. Another message is that Muslims should remain firm in their belief even under threat, just as the magicians were after Pharaoh told them he will have their hand and foot cut off for believing in Musa's Lord. *Later the story of Adam is mentioned and believers are told they need to guard against Shaitan because he is the avowed enemy of the Children of Adam. On the other hand, the kuffaar are told that by rejecting the truth of Islam they are following the Shaitan, who is accursed. *In the end the Prophet and the believers are advised to be patient, for Allaah's victory will come and the kuffaar will eventually face His justice. *Last night a partial account of Surah Ta Ha stated that this surah provides further support to the believers and repeats the promise of humiliation and torment for those who reject the message of Islam. The Prophet is told that this Qur'an is a Book of Guidance to those who accept it, and that he should not be stressed out because of the enemies' rejection of his message. *The disbelievers are told the horror of Day of Resurrection. They will be doomed. *Later, through the story of Adam believers are warned to guard against Shaitan because he is their enemy. On the other hand, the kuffaar are told that by rejecting the truth of Islam they are following the Shaitan. *In the end the Prophet and the believers are advised to be patient, for Allah's victory will come and the kuffaar will eventually face His justice.